

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1           1. A method for rerouting a wireless message to locate a  
2 destination device service provider, comprising:  
3           requesting to send a wireless message from a sending device that  
4 uses a first service provider to a destination device that uses a second  
5 service provider, said request referencing a phone number for the  
6 destination device;  
7           identifying potential service providers for the destination device  
8 based on the phone number;  
9           sending a ping message to each service provider identified as a  
10 potential service provider; and  
11           sending the message to the destination device via a service  
12 provider that successfully responds to the ping message sent to it.

1           2. The method of claim 1, further comprising reformatting the  
2 message from a first message format used by the first service provider to  
3 a second message format used by the second service provider.

1           3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           looking up a target service provider in a database mapping wireless  
3 device phone numbers to wireless device providers; and

4 sending the message via a service provider that is mapped to the  
5 phone number of the destination device.

1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 maintaining a phone map table the maps wireless device phone  
3 numbers to corresponding service providers; and  
4 updating the phone map table to map the destination device phone  
5 number to any service providers that successfully respond to the ping  
6 message sent to it.

1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising sending a failure  
2 message back to the sending device if not service provider successfully  
3 responds to any of the ping messages.

1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising recording a  
2 transaction corresponding to a successfully sent message, said  
3 transaction identifying the service providers used in rerouting the  
4 message.

1 7. A method for rerouting a message sent from a sending device  
2 while roaming, comprising:  
3 requesting to send a message while roaming from the sending  
4 device to a destination device;

5 routing the message to a message center corresponding to a  
6 roaming carrier that currently provides wireless access service for the  
7 sending device;  
8 intercepting the message and redirecting it to a different SMSC  
9 (short messaging service center) than an SMSC corresponding to a home  
10 carrier for the sending device; and  
11 routing the message to the different SMSC to be delivered to the  
12 destination device.

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